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## HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Tuesday and Wednesday, February 15-16, 2022  
Ballroom B, Memorial Union, North Dakota State University  
Fargo, North Dakota

Representative Mark Sanford, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

**Members present:** Representatives Mark Sanford, Larry Bellew, Jay Fisher, LaurieBeth Hager, Karla Rose Hanson, Zachary Ista, Dennis Johnson, Bob Martinson, Gary Paur, Brandy Pyle, David Richter, Mike Schatz, Cynthia Schreiber-Beck; Senators JoNell A. Bakke, Dave Oehlke, Jim P. Roers\*

**Members absent:** Senators Robert Erbele, Karen K. Krebsbach

**Others present:** Senator Ray Holmberg, Grand Forks, member of the Legislative Management; Senator Ronald Sorvaag, Fargo

See [Appendix A](#) for additional persons present.

*\*Attended remotely*

**It was moved by Senator Oehlke, seconded by Representative Johnson, and carried on a voice vote that the minutes of the September 28-29, 2021, meeting be approved as distributed.**

Ms. Mylynn Tufte, President-Elect, North Dakota Nurses Association, presented information ([Appendix B](#)) regarding the nursing workforce shortage. She noted changes are necessary to provide better work environments, improve compensation, and to improve patient safety.

Dr. Tammy Buchholz, Associate Director for Education, North Dakota Board of Nursing, presented information ([Appendix C](#)) regarding nursing education requirements and licensing. She noted there were 17,349 licensed registered nurses in the state in 2020-21, an increase from 15,580 licensed registered nurses in 2016-17.

Ms. Buchholz distributed information ([Appendix D](#)) on behalf of the North Dakota University System regarding enrollment and graduation trends in nursing programs.

In response to committee member questions, Ms. Buchholz indicated there is a faculty shortage at both the undergraduate and graduate level for nursing education programs and health care facilities have worked to ensure adequate clinical training is available for nursing program students.

Mr. David Krebsbach, Vice Chancellor for Administration and Chief Financial Officer, North Dakota University System, presented information ([Appendix E](#)) regarding the capital building fund program.

Chairman Sanford requested the University System provide additional information at a future meeting regarding completed capital projects and their impact on deferred maintenance.

Dr. Dean Bresciani, President, North Dakota State University, presented information ([Appendix F](#)) regarding an overview of the institution.

Dr. Greg Lardy, Director, North Dakota State University Agricultural Experiment Station, commented regarding the construction of the agricultural products development center, recently named the Peltier Complex.

The committee toured select facilities on the campus of North Dakota State University, including Sugihara Hall, Waldron Hall, Wiidikas Laboratory, Potato Research-Pesticide Storage, Sugar Beet Research, and the south Lord and Burnham Greenhouse.

The committee recessed at 5:00 p.m. and reconvened at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, February 16, 2022.

Dr. Harvey Link, Interim President, North Dakota State College of Science, presented information ([Appendix G](#)) regarding an overview of the institution. He noted over \$500,000 has been awarded to North Dakota State College of Science students through the career builders scholarship and loan repayment programs since 2019.

Ms. Brenda Zastoupil, Director of Financial Aid, North Dakota University System, presented information ([Appendix H](#)) regarding student financial assistance provided by the state and institutions. She noted institutional scholarships totaled approximately \$36.9 million in the 2020-21 academic year, and students received an additional \$12.3 million from private scholarships. She added that approximately 7,586 students received a tuition waiver each academic year between 2015-16 and 2019-20, averaging a total of \$31.1 million per year. She noted the State Department of Health also administers certain financial aid and loan repayment programs, including the health care professional student loan repayment program, the federal state loan repayment program, the national health service corps, the dental loan repayment program, and the veterinarian loan repayment program. She provided the following detail regarding University System student financial assistance programs:

Program	Description	Award Amount	2021-23 Biennium General Fund Appropriations
Student financial assistance grants	Needs-based grants awarded to students based on FAFSA information	Maximum grant of \$1,100 per semester	\$23,917,306
Scholars program	Scholarships awarded to the top-ranked high school graduates based on ACT Aspire scores	Full amount of tuition	\$1,807,115
Academic and career and technical education scholarship program	Scholarships awarded to resident students who achieve certain academic standards in high school	\$750 per semester	\$16,216,749
Indian scholarship program	Merit or needs-based scholarships awarded to students who are enrolled members of a federally recognized Indian tribe	Up to \$2,000 per academic year	\$555,323
Professional student exchange program	Secures admission opportunities and reduces tuition costs for North Dakota students who enroll in veterinary medicine, dentistry, and optometry programs at certain out-of-state institutions	Varies by program	\$3,699,342
Dual credit tuition scholarship	Funded using Bank of North Dakota profits, this program incentivizes completion of dual credit courses in high school	Maximum lifetime award of \$750	\$1,500,000
Career builders scholarship and loan repayment	Workforce development program funded through Bank of North Dakota profits and private sector matching funds	Maximum lifetime award of \$17,000	\$4,500,000
Tribal community college assistance grant	Issued to five North Dakota tribal colleges for enrolling resident nonbeneficiary students	The appropriation is distributed at a prorated amount to each tribal college	\$1,000,000

Mr. Kelvin Hullet, Market Manager, Bank of North Dakota, presented information ([Appendix I](#)) regarding the current role of the Bank of North Dakota in the provision of student financial assistance. He noted the role of the Bank of North Dakota is to fund the career builders and dual credit tuition scholarship programs, to issue and refinance private student loans, to provide low-income dual-credit assistance, and to administer College Save 529 Savings Plans. He added that the Bank's student loan portfolio is \$1.1 billion, including over 45,000 borrowers with an average loan amount of \$25,600.

Mr. Wayne Sick, Director, Department of Career and Technical Education, presented information ([Appendix J](#)) regarding the career center initiative grant program. He noted \$88.3 million was appropriated for construction, renovation, maintenance, and equipment for new and expanding career and technical education centers and facilities, to be provided as a \$1 to \$1 matching grant. He added that 17 applications were received for funding, totaling \$117 million in requests.

Chairman Sanford indicated the Department of Career and Technical Education would be asked to provide additional information regarding the career center initiative grant program at a future meeting.

Representative Pyle suggested the committee receive information regarding military student financial aid in the state at a future meeting.

No further business appearing, Chairman Sanford adjourned the meeting at 12:15 p.m.

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Alex J. Cronquist  
Senior Fiscal Analyst

ATTACH:10